

You Are What You Eat Looking Back: Nichol's Presidency Life Beyond Graduation

The DoG Street Journal

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Commerce and The College

Exclusive: SCC Student Life Survey Released

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(whoware)

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(what'sinside)

President Nichol

>A Mark Left On Campus

A retrospective look at Gene Nichol, the College's twenty-sixth President.

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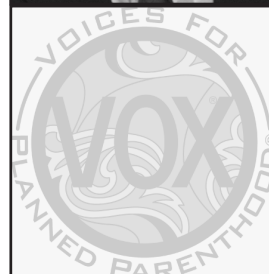


The Vagina Monologues

>VOX Honors V-Day

For the sixth consecutive year, UCAB and VOX team up to perform "The Vagina Monologues" on campus.

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>Tribe Baseball Expectations

Tribe Baseball prospects are bright with a new approach to coaching and a strong starting roster.

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OUR MISSION

The DSJ is the College's only monthly newsmagazine and daily online paper. Access us anytime on the web at dogstreetjournal.com. We strive to provide a quality, reliable and thought-provoking media outlet serving the College community with constantly updated coverage of diverse topics. If it happens here, you'll know.

COVER IMAGE

Working to bring together the city of Williamsburg and the College community, the Student Chamber of Commerce conducted the first Student Life Survey (SLS). Inside, read the DSJ's exclusive report on the SLS's findings, plus interviews with Mayor Ziedler and the Office of Economic Development. See page 4 for full story.

**Cover Design by Tom Moyer
and Meg Luteran**

WORDS IN BRIEF

DoubleTake places second in quarterfinals

The College's co-ed jazz a cappella group DoubleTake placed second to the University of Maryland Faux Paz in the International Competition of Collegiate A Cappella quarterfinals held Feb. 16 at the College. The group's director Brittney Bonney ('08) also won an award for best arrangement for the song "Bridge over Troubled Water." The group will compete March 29 at the ICCA semifinals at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, NC, where the top two groups will move on to the finals at the Lincoln Center in New York City. The last time the group went all the way to the finals was in 2001.

Honor Council handles cases, elects members

The Undergraduate Honor Council released a list of its fall 2007 activity. The council undertook seven allegations, several with multiple honor code violations. Only one student was found not guilty of all charges. Four students were found guilty of cheating, and three students found guilty of lying. Sanctions for guilty students ranged from meetings with the Dean of Students to written letters of apology to probation to suspension. New members of the Undergraduate Honor Council, chosen by popular election Feb. 19, started their term Feb. 24.

Dr. Alveda King on pro-life civil rights

As part of the organization Students for Life's observance of Pro-Life Awareness Week, Dr. Alveda King, the niece of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., spoke to students on Feb. 11 about her own pro-life views and the link between civil rights and abortion. She stated that the "genocide" resulting from abortion is one of America's biggest current civil rights problems. During her lecture, she used the Bible as her cornerstone source of citations, corroborating her idea that "a true civil rights movement begins in prayer." She also criticized her uncle for accepting an award from Planned Parenthood named after Margaret Sanger, in one motion criticizing the 1920s feminist movement and the uncle that serves as her main source of credibility.

Progressive BOV member resigns

Robert A. Blair ('68) announced his resignation from the Board of Visitors to the College community on Feb. 19. Blair's resignation suggests that Powell's description may have been less than accurate. Rather, Blair wrote, "I was one of several members of the Board who argued forcefully for the renewal of Gene Nichol's contract as President of the College. Although no vote was taken, one was not required if the contract was not to be renewed." Blair was appointed to the BOV in 2004. He received his undergraduate degree in mathematics from the College in 1968 and went on to earn a law degree in 1973 from the University of Virginia School of Law. He has practiced law in Washington, D.C. for over 30 years.

'Steer Clear' is back

Under the auspices of Will Sealy ('09), the program Steer Clear, which offers students free rides on weekend nights, is back in full swing. While under the control of the Greek system, the program was unreliable and poorly managed, but Sealy hopes to expand the program with an overarching goal of preventing risky behavior. The SA approved a bill to fund drivers for Steer Clear and to remove it from the control of the Greek system to become an independent student organization. The phone number for the service is: (757) 221-3748.

Sex Workers' Art Show visits campus

All the while inciting nationwide panic and concern, the two performances of the Sex Workers' Art Show stirred up a sizeable amount of protesting on campus. The event was scrutinized by Williamsburg City police and the contract addendum given to the performers included last-minute changes involving recording of the event and the selling of merchandise. The event itself was met by a small number of protesters. However, the two performances of the show, which featured a combination of readings, burlesque dancing and song, sold out hours before the performance.

(savethedate)

March 14

who: film lovers
what: 6th annual cans film festival
when: 7 p.m.
where: tucker theater
why: the College's only student film festival

March 20-22

who: aspiring dancers
what: orchesis performance ensemble's evening of dance
when: 8 p.m.
where: phi beta kappa hall
why: new modern dance choreography by students

March 25

who: thrill-seekers
what: busch gardens opens for 2008 season
when: 10 a.m.
where: busch gardens, three miles east of cw on pocahontas trail
why: five roller coasters, european pseudo-history, overpriced food

March 28-29

who: research-bound students
what: seventh annual graduate research symposium
when: all day saturday; sunday until 1:30 p.m.
where: university center
why: learn about cutting-edge research (reservations required for some events)

March 29

who: doubletake groupies
what: international competition of collegiate a cappella southern semifinals
when: 7 p.m.
where: wake forest university
why: if they win, doubletake will perform at the lincoln center in new york

DSJ EXCLUSIVE

Student Chamber of Commerce Releases First

STUDENT LIFE SURVEY

» JAKE ROBERT NELSON, DSH INTERIM NEWS EDITOR of those students described themselves as

During the last few months of 2007, the Student Chamber of Commerce (SCC) created a survey as a sort of litmus test of student life at the College. The SCC, a group made up of about 25 students, is devoted to building rapport between the College community and the greater Williamsburg community. The survey was designed to inform local businesses about on-campus behavior.

"It is a change from speculation to actual, quantitative data about what students want," said Greg Cooper ('08), chair of the Student Life Survey subcommittee, at an SCC event on Jan. 31. "We want to provide current and prospective area businesses with information about student demographics."

The survey's sample size of 1271 students, which represents about 22 percent of the student body, features an almost even divide among social classes. However, there is about an eight percent error compared to the College's actual gender ratio.

Still, the survey is the first of its kind, and the results are a mixture of predictable and surprising.

Basic Demographics

The survey shows that about 80 percent of students live on campus with easy access to downtown Williamsburg. Also, more than half of students living off campus stated that their residences were within walking distance of the campus.

According to the survey, about half of students go out "with the purpose of being social" two to three times a week. However, most students leave the Williamsburg area with the primary purpose of being social zero to three times a semester, possibly due to the fact that less than half of the student body has easy access to a car. Regardless, this shows that most students stay on campus or in the Williamsburg area for social events.

The plurality of students who took the survey, about 25 percent, were taking 15 credits during the Fall 2007 semester, and almost half of students spent between two and four hours a day on schoolwork.

Also of note, 38 percent of students surveyed reported working a paid part-time job. While responses varied, about one third

working for the College: at the University Center, the Student Recreation Center or William and Mary Hall.

Student Life

Many students on campus cite the quality and number of social venues as one of their biggest complaints of the College. In fact, according to the survey, only 10 percent of students were pleasantly surprised by the social scene in Williamsburg upon their arrival. Half of students found social venues to meet expectations, while the rest were underwhelmed.

Since they have been here, though, few students think that the quality of social venues has worsened. A majority of students believe that it has stayed the same, while more than 30 percent think that it is improved. The SCC attributes this to the development of new social settings such as New Town.

Student life is obviously affected by more than the City government and local businesses. When asked about the impact of College administration, the Student Assembly (SA) and the University Center Activities Board (UCAB), students' responses gave in-sight into opinions of on campus events.

UCAB engendered the greatest number of favorable sentiments of the three, with 86 percent of students stating that their

opinions were either somewhat or very favorable. A near majority of students also favored the impact of the SA, and opinions on the impact of the College administration were evenly divided.

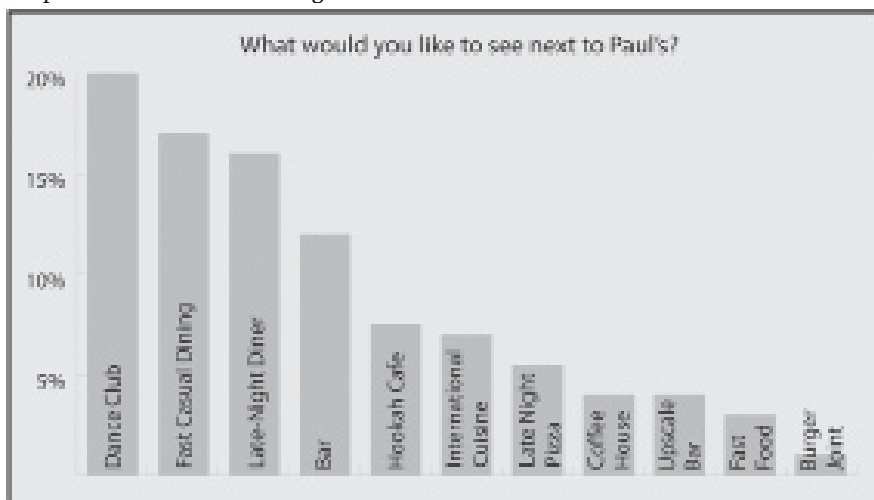
An interesting phenomenon occurred with the data from the SA and College administration questions: older students had considerably less favorable opinions than younger students. The SCC attributed this to students becoming "jaded" as they spent more time at the College.

The survey also asked students to rank where they spend most of their social time. Almost half of the students reported spending their time in their own dormitory or residence. Other dormitories on campus, off-campus parties and the fraternities each earned about 10 percent. Among the delis, which earned only eight percent in the survey, the Green Leaf Café was the most popular, especially among juniors and seniors.

A Link to Local Businesses

Though the SCC's Student Life Survey is a good tool to learn more about the demographics of the student body, its original purpose was to inform local businesses about students at the College and give suggestions of how to maximize business.

One suggestion to businesses was to advertise on Facebook. Over 80 percent of students surveyed learn about campus social events via Facebook, but only 20 percent learn about area business promotions that way. Cooper specifically lauded the possibility of Facebook advertising, stating that it had high traffic, low cost and the ability to target only students at the College.



Results gathered from student responses to a question asked on the Student Life Survey. The city plans to fill the space with student-oriented retail business.

Besides Facebook, the top ways students learn about campus events are through the Student Happenings e-mail messages sent out by the Office of Student Affairs and by posters around campus. For business promotions, the top sources were slips put in students' campus mailboxes, posters around campus and Student Happenings.

As over half of students who took the survey reported spending \$20 or less each week on social activities, it should come as no surprise that students most desire low-cost, student-oriented businesses within walking distance from campus.

When asked what social venue students would like to see in the empty lot next to Paul's Deli on Scotland St., the top three options were a dance club, a fast casual dining establishment or a late-night diner. This was of special interest to the SCC, as none of the three are establishments with the primary purpose of serving alcohol.

Individual Student Responses

The final part of the Student Life Survey was an opportunity for students to leave individual comments. These comments provide a more direct insight into students' desires for and problems with the City.

Many students expressed a wish for late-night businesses available for students under 21 years old. One student wrote, "When Wawa does good business after 11 p.m. every night of the week, it seems to me there needs to be some sort of late-night diner or café where [students under 21] can go and hang out."

One main concern of students is access to transportation. Students complained about the availability of bicycle racks on campus and demanded that downtown Williamsburg be more bike-friendly. Students also criticized the local bus system for its unreliability and infrequent hours. Many desired that the Williamsburg Area Transit system better

publicize the location of bus stops and the schedules for each route.

Many students also lambasted the regulations of the City over what goes on at the College. Many students perceive rules, such as the three-to-a-house rule, to be directly targeted against the student population and would prefer a more hands-off approach.

One student wrote, "Williamsburg should have no say whatsoever in the social life of this campus."

Another wrote, "The way the city treats us is horrid, and I would be very interested in helping see that come to an end."

There was one comment, however, that appeared more frequently than any other: students' desire for a franchise of the Chipotle Mexican Grill restaurant. One student claimed that he or she would do "whatever you need me to do" in order to ensure the acquisition of such a restaurant.

Responses From...

The Office of Economic Development

Michele Dewitt, the Economic Development

Director for the City of Williamsburg, realizes the purchasing power of student consumers. "We encourage local businesses to market their products to the student population by staying open later or making products better oriented to students," she said.

But Dewitt also sympathizes with students' complaints. She said, "There is still work to be done."

Dewitt also described ongoing projects spearheaded by the City to make it more student-oriented. The City has purchased the Richmond Road property where the Tioga Motel stands and has demolished the motel. The City has also received a grant to tear down Monica's, a local fortuneteller, and Dis'n'That, a thrift store, on Richmond Road near Williamsburg Shopping Center. Dewitt said that such projects make the area more attractive to students.

Also, in the vacant lot next to Paul's Deli—where students would prefer a dance club—Dewitt said that the City is trying to combine with the local housing authority to construct student-oriented retail businesses.

Dewitt also said that the Chipotle Mexican Grill restaurant chain is committed to open a store in Williamsburg by the end of 2008. She said that she is unsure of where the restaurant will be, though, as private property owners are often hesitant of brand new businesses.

"The City has also received a grant to tear down Monica's, a local fortuneteller, and Dis'n'That, a thrift store, on Richmond Road..."

"...the Chipotle Mexican Grill restaurant chain is committed to open a store in Williamsburg by the end of 2008."

A few other developments may help encourage student life by increasing the quantity and access of social venues. The High Street shopping center on Richmond Road will feature entertainment and dining, including a cinema and taverns to be opened by Sep. 1, 2008. Dewitt also said that Williamsburg Area Transit was trying to get grant money for

a trolley to go exclusively between campus, New Town and High Street.

Mayor Jeanne Zeidler

Jeanne Zeidler, mayor of the City of Williamsburg, has often heard complaints from both students and local residents about the relationship between the College and the City. However, she is optimistic.

"We have seen over the past couple of years some tensions between students and the city, and there certainly are some differences, either perceived or real, of opinion on some city policies and some student actions," she said. "But I think in the long run the goals are pretty much the same, although sometimes there are tactical differences."

She prescribes an increased dialogue between the two, something that has been slowly growing over the past few years. In Feb. 2008, for example, the College hosted a meeting of the Williamsburg neighborhood council, where residents could speak with student leaders and administration. She also believes that the SCC and campus service groups work towards this goal of communication.

Zeidler also stated that the City Council was looking out for the best interest of students at the College. In response to criticism about housing regulations, she said that the Council drafts policy "that made housing safer for students to live in," policies she thinks are often misunderstood by students.

While the SCC's Student Life Survey allows both local government and businesses to learn more about students' wants and needs

LOOKING BACK ON NICHOL

» JAKE ROBERT NELSON, DSJ NEWS EDITOR

Despite the controversy over the College Board of Visitors' decision not to renew his contract, the presidency of Gene R. Nichol has doubtless left a mark on the College. While his term as president may have been one of the shortest in the College's 315 year history, he will be remembered—for better or for worse—by the students, faculty and staff long after his departure, which he announced on Feb. 13.

It is perhaps most useful to look back to July 2005, when Nichol was sworn in as the 26th president. After the swearing-in, Nichol laid out the main goals of his presidency: to seek more funding from both public and private sources, to increase diversity in the faculty, students and administration and to expand the College's curriculum to encompass the world beyond the College walls.

The DSJ interviewed Nichol in November 2007, after a number of controversies surfaced and the Board decided to review his contract as president.

"There's a renewal process going forward and I hope that it involves input from a lot of the community. I think that's a good thing. I think there are a lot of different opinions about the success of a presidency, the value of a president. There are a lot of different opinions in my case on that front," Nichol said.

Nichol pointed out that he tried to focus on College affairs, rather than be "diverted" by the renewal review process.

Fundraising & Nichol's Legacy

One of his most criticized policies was Nichol's fundraising strategy. Many blamed Nichol for the decision of former Rector of the Board of Visitors James McGlothlin ('62, J.D. '64) to withhold a \$12 million donation because of the Wren Cross controversy. However, the Campaign for William and Mary, a seven-year, \$500 million fundrais-

ing drive, was completed during Nichol's stay.

In a November interview, Nichol would not comment on the withheld McGlothlin donation, but said he liked dealing with alumni.

"One of the best resources of the college of William and Mary is the affection its

lege, but most would argue that the College still has a long way to go before being on an equal level with its peer institutions.

Rankings

In an interview with The DSJ in August 2007, Nichol praised the "singular liberal arts experience" at the College, with its "unique tradition of rigor."

"I think it is literally true that we have a stronger educational experience than any other public university," Nichol said, adding that he was troubled by the slight drop in rankings.

U.S. News and World Report currently ranks the College at 33rd in the country's public and private universities. Last year, the College came in at 31st in the same list. The Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College also fell slightly in the U.S. News rankings during Nichol's tenure.

Diversity

Since his inauguration, Nichol made a pet project out of his diversity campaign. According to an official College press release, more than 3,500 of the 10,800 students – 32.5 percent – accepted to the class of 2011 were students of color. This was a slight decline from the previous year. The College, however,

did admit 44 more first-generation college students than it did for the class of 2010.

Median SAT and ACT scores remained the same during Nichol's term and the number of students in the top 10 percent of their high school class increased. The Gateway William and Mary program has decreased the financial burden for many students by allowing students with family incomes below \$40,000 to graduate debt-free.

Nichol's professed goal of "internationalizing" the College is related to the goal of diversity, as a diverse body of students and faculty facilitate global curricula and international-themed student groups.

Professor Francis Tanglao-Aguas of the Department of Theatre, Speech and Dance has felt more comfortable over the past few years teaching courses that stray from the usual Western views of performance.

"[Nichol's] presence here encouraged me to create classes about Asian performance,



alumni have for the institution. So, it can be quite heartening to deal with the alumni of the College," he said.

The same interview became tense when Nichol was asked about his relationship with the previous president, Timothy Sullivan. There had been speculation at the time about Nichol's knowledge about the \$12 million loss in advance of the Wren decision. An e-mail from Sullivan to Nichol, later released in response to Freedom of Information Act requests, suggested that Sullivan tried to warn Nichol of the situation. In November 2007, Nichol declined to comment on his relationship with Sullivan.

According to the College's Office of Development, \$517.55 million was raised during the Campaign, money to be used for everything from athletics to faculty research grants to new facilities.

The Campaign was an audacious fundraising effort vis-à-vis the size of the Col-

dramatizing diversity, Asian cinema—classes that were not existing before he came,” Tanglao-Aguas said.

Student multicultural groups have become more active, from the Muslim Students Association to the College’s chapter of the NAACP.

Civic Engagement & Research

The College has received numerous grants during Nichol’s presidency to fund research programs and put it on par with peer institutions. These grants range from the Howard Hughes Medical Institution’s grant for a yearlong freshman course on phage genomics to the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation’s grant to expand the department of Environmental Science and Policy.

Indeed, the College’s devotion to international service and civic engagement is exemplified by its fifth-place ranking among medium-sized schools for Peace Corps volunteers and its status as the American university with the greatest number of Fulbright Scholars per capita.

BOV Meeting of February 22

Many suggest that Nichol invited controversy over the Wren Cross or the Sex Workers’ Art Show. When the Board of Visitors visited campus on Feb. 22, after Nichol resigned, after the protesting and after Board member Robert A. Blair’s resignation, they restated their message. The decision not to renew Nichol’s contract was not made on ideological grounds, the Board asserted.

Rector Michael K. Powell said the Board had concerns about Nichol’s “strategic and management planning” and that there are parts of the president’s job that “cannot be compromised.”

Suzann Matthews, Secretary of the BOV, and Rector Powell strongly underlined the need for the College’s president to raise funds. Powell expressed his desire for the College to run a \$1 billion fundraising campaign.

“You can’t afford to be deficient on the fundraising front,” Powell said.

The Board held meetings with staff, faculty and students. In response to a student’s question about the Board’s supposed unanimity in the wake of Blair’s defection, Rector Powell said because there was no vote, the decision was more ambiguous.

“I’m sorry if it came across as something less than candid or accurate,” Powell said.

At the BOV meeting on Feb. 22, a resolution was passed to officially appoint Dean Taylor Reveley from the Marshall-Wythe School of Law as Interim President.

IN HIS OWN WORDS

“Our finest, most enduring efforts at self-definition have come in times of crisis. ... Ultimately these aren’t matters of right and left, they’re matters of right and wrong” - April 2002

“Whether celebrating our happiest moments, marking our greatest achievements, or finding solace during our most profound sadness, our Chapel, like our entire campus, must be welcoming to all.” - Oct. 2006

“Patience is a vital virtue--especially for a university president. I’m still learning it.” - Dec. 2006

“It is crucial not to surrender to the loud and the vitriolic and the angry -- just because they are loud and vitriolic and angry.” - Feb. 2008

“Think of a living a life in which you don’t believe. It’s frequently done, but it’s not for you. It is not for the young women and men of the College of William and Mary.” - Feb 2008.

THE COMMUNITY’S RESPONSE

“People are very sad by what’s happened. We’re very proud of William and Mary, and this cannot be good for William and Mary.” - Williamsburg Mayor Jeanne Zeidler

“This guy never hesitated one single bit to step up and do what he believed in.” - Madeeha Hameed (’09)

“For the most part, the staff are [like] secondary citizens, but I know things that [Nichol] has done for the staff that will never be the same once he’s gone.” - HACE President Ann Repeta

“One controversy after another made it difficult for him to move the College in a positive direction. ... His non-renewal will hopefully allow the College to get back on track.” - Ian Whiteside (’08)

“There are aspects of the General Assembly that I find reprehensible, [the public campaign to force Nichol out was] “uncharitable, deplorable, vicious and very un-William and Mary ... We cannot stand that small community of William and Mary.” - Rector Michael Powell

“He was a sweet professor, but I don’t think he was a martyr for a cause, and I think we can find a less divisive president.” - Julia Zamecnik (’11)

“The BOV’s decision is a catastrophe for WM because it questions values and a vision in which I believe. It limits the freedom of the College to pursue its academic mission.” Maryse Fauvel, Associate Professor of French

“The BOV’s decision is an intrusion of political influence from outside into our academic freedom and community and threatens the autonomy and self-governance of the College.” - Tomoko Kato, Japanese instructor

THE CAF, UC AND MP:

Where and How Our Food is Produced

PLUS: A LOOK AT

LOCAL and ORGANIC
FOOD INITIATIVES
and CAMPUS RECYCLING

R F O C

» ISABELLE COHEN, DSJ STAFF REPORTER

The image of America as a country run by people who rise with the rooster to milk the cows has become increasingly outdated. Although in the last decade Americans have become more aware of what are called “factory farms,” corporation-like farms best known for their inhumane treatment of animals, most people still do not know the origin of the food they eat every day. The College consumes huge quantities of food per year, but from where?

Dublin Farms, Inc., located in Horntown, VA, supplies potatoes to the College in July and the first weeks of August. According to a sales representative, the farm supplies about half a trailer load per week, which is approximately 20,000 pounds of potatoes.

Dublin Farms does use pesticides—weed-killers, insecticides and fungicides—but they wash the potatoes before they are shipped. The potatoes are checked yearly, and the USDA has never found levels above what is considered safe. The potatoes go up to a warehouse in Pocomoke, MD, first before coming down to Richmond. It is over 150 miles from Pocomoke to Williamsburg, but, according to Aramark, the company that provides food services to the College, those potatoes are grown locally.

Aramark is the only major food contracting service that the College uses. It supplies food to over 400 colleges and universities and serves over 200 million meals annually. Besides the restaurants found in the College’s Marketplace, Aramark also features brands like Miso Noodle Bar, Chili’s, Wen-

dy’s, Burger King and Ben & Jerry’s. The model at the College—a mix of traditional cafeterias with options like the Marketplace, Student Exchange and Mews Café—forms their standard business procedure.

Sysco, or Systems and Services Company, is the main food supplier used by Aramark, although Aramark also contracts with some local producers. Sysco owns the warehouses where the food from the local farms, like Dublin Farms, is shipped. According to Aramark, Sysco always tries to use the most local produce, given the volume the College requires, and, of course, price restrictions. Sysco is a huge company, which serves thousands of organizations and types of organizations all over America and gets its food from sources just as diverse. In 2006, the company’s biggest suppliers, in order, were Campbell’s Soup Company (located in New Jersey), McCain Foods US (Illinois), ConAgra Foods Lamb Weston (Idaho), Prairie Packing Inc. (Illinois), Tyson Foods (Arkansas) and SCA Tissue North American (New York).

While a lot of Sysco’s food does not come from local sources by anyone’s standards, some also comes from Virginia and its surrounding states. Sysco uses at least four farms in Delaware, three in Maryland, three in North Carolina and six in Virginia, from Roanoke to Hallwood. In fact, the Roanoke Farm, “Murray Cider,” supplies apple cider to the College year round.

Aramark is also a big believer in sustainability and local food, according to their official policies. They call their environmental programs and policies “Green Thread,” as, according to Aramark representative David Gargione, “they weave throughout [Aramark’s] business operations every day.”

According to Aramark, local food is anything produced within 200 to 250 miles of where it is consumed. Dublin Farms—even though its potatoes cross the state border from Virginia to Maryland and then back again before arriving at the College—is considered a local producer. Despite this range, less than 10 percent of the College’s food comes from local sources—and this number is inflated by the high amount of local dairy products. Furthermore, because most of these local farms are also small, they only supply produce in the summer when the College is not in full session. Because most of the food eaten here is not locally produced, it travels at least 200 miles, in many cases even thousands of miles, to get to campus.

The point of local food is to reduce the cost and environmental damage done by

transporting food. Dublin Farms alone ships half a trailer-load per week, and it is one of probably thousands or more of potato suppliers used just by Aramark. The less distance its trucks travel, the less fuel they use and the less pollution they cause.

About five percent of what Aramark supplies is organic. Organic food is a little easier to define than local food. To be considered organic, crops must meet fairly specific federal regulations, particularly ones involving pesticides and land use. For example, organic meat, poultry, eggs and dairy products must come from animals that are given no antibiotics or growth hormones. Organic food is typically produced without most conventional pesticides.

Phil DiBenedetto is the Resident District Manager at the College. He is an Aramark employee who has worked here for a long time, following stints at a variety of places including Disney World. According to DiBenedetto, 96 percent of the College's dairy comes from Virginia. The bakeshop, located in the Caf, produces most of the brownies and cookies the school uses, and most of the rest of the baked goods comes from Hampton Goods.

SEAC's Food Sustainability Campaign and the Campus Garden

For the last four semesters, DiBenedetto has also worked closely with the Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC)'s Food Sustainability Campaign. The current organizer of the campaign is Zach Miller. At the moment, the Food Sustainability Campaign is working on maintaining its garden as well as its composter, which arrived in late January.

Right now, the garden is a few thousand square feet. According to Miller, SEAC would be "happy to get enough lettuce to supply the Caf with lettuce for one day."

The real goal of the garden is not just to grow food but also to raise awareness about the issue of local and sustainable food. SEAC hopes it will serve as a model upon which they would like to expand to create a bigger garden, hopefully with land from James City County. The grant for said land is already in process.

"This Campus Garden"—a clear-cut ex-

ample of local food—will, according to the Senate bill allocating them student funds, "use fertilizer provided by the composter, thus promoting organic growth." According to the bill, the Student Assembly will allot \$1,000 to the on-campus part of the project, for "fencing, one hundred seeds, gardening tools and fertilizer."

In the short run, the Garden will be entirely staffed and managed by students and faculty. SEAC hopes to get local high school students involved so that there is enough labor to maintain the gardens through the summer. In the long run, SEAC would like to have enough of a garden, and enough student interest, to convince the College to hire a farm manager.

Another project that DiBenedetto and the Food Sustainability Campaign hope to work together on in the near future is eliminating trays from some on-campus cafeterias. The elimination of trays cuts down on the amount of extra food students take, and, at other universities, has provided a 30 to 50 percent reduction in food waste from students. The University of Virginia has currently implemented such a program, but mostly because of a water restriction they are currently facing, according to DiBenedetto. The most likely candidate for a trial run is the Caf, due to its circular set up.

The question of waste is another important one. At the Caf, any food that sits out for more than four hours, according to DiBenedetto, must be thrown away due to health concerns. Food still usable when a meal period changes is recyclable, typically into a soup or salad. The garnishes are also frequently reused.

One major issue in the University Center's dining hall is the use of plastic plates. Despite the use of environmentally friendly take-out containers, a switch made over the course of this last year, on many days the UC still resorts to plastic silverware and plates. According to DiBenedetto, this happens because the "dish machine breaks on a regular basis." The cost to repair or replace it is anywhere from \$100,000 to \$300,000, and there seems to be no way to keep it from breaking.

Campus recycling is another big issue, and one not always food specific. Most

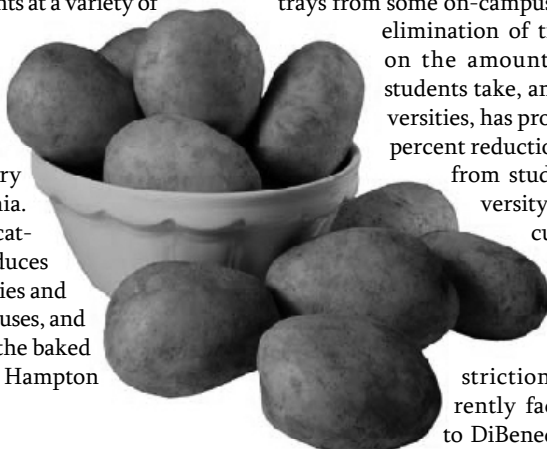


students have blue bins in their rooms for paper and plastic, which can be emptied into the dozens of recycling bins all around campus. SEAC is also working on a recycling program for many of the buildings. The only students who do not have any recycling service are those who live off-campus. These students must either sneak their garbage on campus—a particularly heinous task for those without cars—or find other clever ways to recycle it. If on-campus recycling bins are too full to fit additional materials, students can call to have them emptied almost immediately.

Aramark runs a program called "RecycleMania," which goes until April 5. The goal of "RecycleMania" is for all participating colleges to see what level of recycling they can achieve in a given period of time. During February, dining services placed bottle and can recycling bins in the school cafeterias for this express purpose.

Unfortunately, at the two-week tally, the College is a little lacking competitively. The College is competing in three categories—Per Capita Classic, Targeted Materials (Corrugated Cardboard) and Targeted Materials (Bottles and Cans)—in the partial campus section of the competition. In the Per Capita part of the competition, the school currently ranks 40th of 51 participating schools. The school comes in 19th out of 43 in corrugated cardboard but just 40th out of 50 in bottles and cans. There is, however, still plenty of time to improve.

Overall, the College uses a pretty limited amount of organic and local food. Most of our food travels across the country before it gets here, and it is likely that some even travels internationally. Between the sheer amount of food consumed, and the higher cost of more organic or local food, it would be difficult for the College to change those percentages significantly, at least without sizeable student pressure to do so. Still, interested students might make more impact by focusing on smaller issues first—such as improving the College's place in the RecycleMania rankings or supporting SEAC's prototype garden.



Surviving the “Real World:”



» GRETCHEN HANNES, DSJ STYLE EDITOR, AND
KATIE MOSCONY, DSJ STAFF REPORTER

The real world. Unlike MTV would have you believe, it's not an endless cycle of partying, hook-ups and drama interrupted by the occasional hour of work or sunbathing outside a tricked-out mansion. In reality, it's a little less like “Spring Break” and a little more like *The Office* without the clever one-liners and commercial breaks. It's challenging, stressful, rewarding, exciting...and it's not college.

For most college seniors, the stress of the “real world” starts with the job search. Beginning as early as October, seniors are forced to confront the question—what am I going to do with the rest of my life? This question is bound to be oft-repeated by friends, professors and your Uncle John.

Megan Dorward ('07), a former American Studies major who now works for a media specialist company in New York City, felt this pressure throughout her senior year. “I felt that everything I was doing was building up to *Finding A Job*,” she said.

Although searching for your first job can feel overwhelming and frustrating, there are ways to make the process less painful. According to Career Center Director Mary Schilling, it's all about narrowing your focus.

“The biggest challenge is deciding what you're looking for. There is no point searching unless you know your focus,” she said. Students also need to identify their “strengths, abilities, aptitudes, values and interests” and find a job that “plays to those strengths.”

Once you've identified your assets, you should find the most appropriate employ-

ers for entry-level positions and pinpoint your ideal job location. “The world is big and opportunities are vast. You can save time by being efficient. Be careful not to limit yourself though. If your focus is too narrow, you miss out on opportunities,” Schilling said.

Many liberal arts students worry that their college majors will offer few career opportunities. You may find yourself wondering what, if any, employer will be impressed by your thesis on transatlanticism in the fiction of Henry James. In fact, the skills you honed in writing that thesis could attract employers in any number of sectors. That is, a liberal arts education, particularly one from the College, provides you with a

education.

The College in particular promotes ideals that will help prepare you for the “real world.” Schilling said the College encourages leadership, volunteerism, civic engagement, a global awareness, cultural sensitivity and a respect and appreciation for diversity.

The key to using a liberal arts degree to your advantage is learning how to market your transferable skills to potential employers, particularly during an interview. Even if your major doesn't directly apply to the jobs you are interviewing for, you can convince potential employers that your skills match their needs.

Armed with a liberal arts background

The key to using a liberal arts degree to your advantage is learning how to market your transferable skills to potential employers... Even if your major doesn't directly apply to the jobs you are interviewing for, you can convince potential employers that your skills match their needs.

broad base of transferable skills that will serve you well in the workforce.

Schilling said that employers look for students with excellent oral and written communication abilities, analytical skills, integrity, flexibility, computer proficiency and teamwork skills. The National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) Job Outlook 2008 Survey also listed communication skills, a strong work ethic and the ability to work in a team as the top three attributes of a perfect job candidate. The good news for students is that these qualities are often the fruits of a liberal arts

and all that entails, college grads will enter a competitive job market. According to the NACE Job Outlook 2008 Survey, employers cite competition as their biggest obstacle to hiring 2008 graduates. But on the bright side, employers expect to increase college hiring by 16 percent this year and more than 60 percent of employers characterized the job market for 2008 grads as “very good” or “excellent.”

Once you've landed a job, your celebrating may be short-lived, as the transition from college life to the working world is not necessarily a smooth one.

"The working world is utterly different from college life," said Rachel Vorona ('07). "Rather than creating your own schedule that likely varies from day to day, you fall into the routine set by your employer."

Schilling also commented on the difficulty of adjusting to a new schedule. She said that it's a challenge to "get into a zone where you're up early every day and working eight, ten, twelve, fourteen hours a day when that's not what you've been doing for the last four years." She also emphasized that with a new job there is an extremely steep learning curve, but said that "people need to know that's part of the intensity and excitement."

After living in Williamsburg for four years, some students have trouble carving out a niche for themselves in a new community, especially when they have to start from scratch.

For Dorward, part of the transition to the real world was "having to reprove [myself] all over again. We spent four years building relationships, networks and reputations at W&M. Now, for better or worse, we have to do that all over again... I feel like I am completely starting over, this time, at the bottom of the corporate totem pole."

A huge part of entering the working world means accepting new financial responsibilities, which both Vorona and Dorward cited as a crucial difference from college life.

"Throughout college I was fortunate enough to be supported by my parents, but I decided that, come graduation, I would move out and become self-sufficient. I successfully achieved this goal but have not progressed beyond preparing for the 'here and now,'" said Vorona. She also said, "I can no longer be idealistic when it comes to money," especially now that she's responsible for "rent, cable and Internet, doctor's appointments, groceries, gas and the many other... expenses that I encounter."

Dorward emphasized the financial burden of housing, particularly in New York City. "A studio apartment will run you \$1600 below Harlem, and that will be your ENTIRE salary. It's a brutal reality, err, reality," she said.

While your financial future may seem questionable, don't despair. And don't start staking out territory in a D.C. alley for your cardboard box or making plans to squat indefinitely in Jamestown South. The real world is more expensive than college life, but it can be an exciting change.

"I love the autonomy," Vorona said of life after college. "I enjoy the satisfaction of be-

ing totally responsible for myself."

Dorward extolled the virtues of life beyond the 'Burg. "After four years of being in a town with three bars and Wawa as the only option of dining after 8 p.m., I embraced New York's cultural opportunities

That's not to say that you should sever ties to your college life. Your friends can provide a valuable support network as you begin this phase of your life. Both Vorona and Dorward value their College memories and reminisced on their time here.



"Though I am loving every day in New York, a little bit of my heart will always be on campus, sun bathing in the [Sunken Gardens], taking midnight strolls through CW, laughing with friends over plastic mugs on Sunday nights."

-- Megan Dorward ('07)

and night life with open arms," she said. "If you can't find what you want on this island, it either doesn't exist or you don't need it."

To survive in this brand-new environment, heed the advice of those who have already tested the waters.

Schilling said that when starting your first job, "Do your best. Give it everything you've got." She also emphasized the importance of networking, which she called "utterly crucial," especially during your first few years in the workforce.

Dorward echoed this sentiment, urging grads to "network, network, network! W&M alums have gone on to do fabulous things, and they are willing and able to get you interviews! It's hard to get your foot in the door, and it really helps to have a personal contact somewhere."

Schilling also advised, "Work hard, but do what you need to do to take care of yourself physically and socially. Don't get burned out too quickly and don't get lonely." She believes that it's important to contribute not only to your employer but also to the community, and to "make real friends."

"Though I am loving every day in New York, a little bit of my heart will always be on campus, sun bathing in the [Sunken Gardens], taking midnight strolls through CW, laughing with friends over plastic mugs on Sunday nights," Dorward said. "I miss the sense of community; I miss the people who made those four years so memorable... I miss having my very best friends living just across the hall or down one flight of stairs."

Apart from her friends, Vorona seemed to miss Wawa the most, which she called "a delightful little convenience store that is not nearly as universal as it should be." On a more serious note, Vorona advised seniors to "cherish your last months while understanding that wonderful and exciting things await you on the other side of graduation."

For those of you with lingering doubts about your future and your potential to succeed, perhaps some words of wisdom from the 2004 Commencement speech of Jon Stewart ('84), one of the College's most famous alums, will ease your mind:

BEST OF'S

A Random Assortment of Five Best Things

FIVE BEST SNACKS OF YOUR CHILDHOOD

HOOD

>> ELIA PFAFF, DSJ STAFF REPORTER



Snack Packs

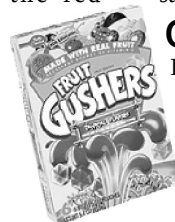
As demonstrated by Adam Sandler in Billy Madison, these pudding cups were a lunch box staple. Great tasting, this snack offered you much more bartering power at the lunch table than a bag of carrot sticks. Of course, the greatest part of the Snack Pack was the excess pudding that stuck to the lid.

Fruit Roll-Ups

This flat, processed fruit-flavored treat wreaked havoc on dental bills everywhere. There were various techniques for enjoying this sticky snack, ranging from eating it strip by strip to smashing the entire roll-up and consuming it all at once. Regardless of your approach, this snack always stuck to your molars and resulted in a severely dyed tongue.

Handi-snacks

Who could forget these delicious crackers and cheese that came with the little red plastic stick? The bright orange cheese spread much too easily and tasted just a little bit processed. Also, there never seemed to be enough crackers, a problem which inevitably led to straight cheese spread consumption using either the red stick or one's index finger.



Gushers

Looking back, these octagonal, liquid-filled snacks were probably among the grossest things a human could consume. They came in a variety of flavors and boasted about their use of real fruit juice and sufficient levels of vitamin C. The commercials, which often included cartoon characters' heads exploding due to flavor overload, were also a

childhood favorite.

Dunkaroos

These kangaroo-shaped graham crackers came packaged with frosting in which to dip them. The frosting came in various flavors and was extremely finger-dunkable once the kangaroos had run out. Though this snack was an easy one to share, doing so was a rare occurrence—everyone was selfish when it came to

FIVE BEST WAYS TO GO GREEN

>> MEGAN GRADY, DSJ STAFF REPORTER

Save Energy With Your Lights

If you're a freshman, you may remember the energy-saving light bulb that you received during orientation; mine has lasted all year. If you haven't used it yet, plug it in. If you're not one of the lucky freshmen who got one for free, pick some up. These lights keep rooms

nice and bright and save on energy bills.

Take Your Own Shopping Bag

When you go shopping for snacks and beer, take your own tote bag to the grocery store instead of deciding between paper and plastic. It can be anything from a regular backpack to a satchel, but if you want to go the extra mile, you can find eco-friendly bags online at websites like www.reusablebags.com or www.ecobags.com. And if you forget to bring your own bags and you don't buy that much stuff, just decline to take the store's bag. Any effort helps the environment!



Skip the Drive-Thru

When you're picking up fast food, skip the drive-through and get out of the car and into the restaurant. This saves the air from emission gases while you're idling and waiting for your order. It also helps you burn a few extra calories off the meal you're about to eat.

Get Gold Coffee Filters

This makes for a cute St. Patrick's Day idea because you can pretend that your coffee is a pot o' gold! Whether you're making a Bailey's Irish Crème or another beverage, you can help save the environment by using reusable filters instead of paper ones. The reusable ones are usually gold-filtered and add some sparkle to your coffee!



Recycle

We all have those handy-dandy blue recycle bins in our dorms, so we might as well put them to use. While it's too late for New Year's resolutions, do your best to make recycling part of your daily habit.

FIVE BEST NON-RELIGIOUS EASTER TRADITIONS

» MEGAN GRADY, DSJ STAFF REPORTER

Organize an Easter Egg Hunt

Everyone loved these as children but they can be just as much fun as a college student. Do a mini-hunt in your dorm with your roommate or stage a large-scale group hunt on the Sunken Garden. The person whose basket is the least full at the end is a rotten egg!

Paint Easter Eggs

This is a fun way to make a mess, be artistic and get some protein in your diet. A cool trick is to write a message on the eggs in a white crayon before dipping it into the dye.

You can also put a new twist on this tradition by “tie-dyeing” them with food coloring. If you don’t want to deal with hard-boiling eggs, you can use markers to decorate the plastic ones you’ll use in your egg hunt.

Visit the Easter Bunny

Just like with Santa at Christmas, most malls feature an Easter bunny this time of year. If you’re bored, gather some friends and pay him a visit. You can indulge your inner kid and get your picture taken!



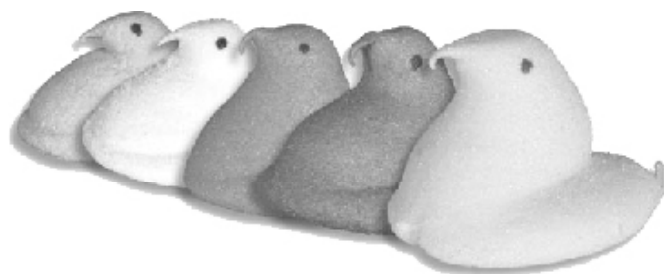
Eat Lots of Chocolate

Grab yourself the biggest, most glorious chocolate bunny you can find and start chewing off his ears.

For some of you, this may be the end of a long Lenten season that included forgoing sweets, making this treat extra-special.

Eat Peeps

Easter is the only time of year these little guys come around, so grab yourself a handful and have contests with your friends. See who can create the best Peeps art or who can say “fuzzy bunny” with the biggest mouthful of Peeps. Just don’t explode them in the microwave!



FIVE BEST

GAME SHOWS OF THE ‘90s

» ELIA PFAFF, DSJ STAFF REPORTER

What Would You Do?

Hosted by Marc Summers, this game show chose its participants from the studio audience. The most memorable segment of the show, the “What Would You Do?” medley, gave contestants the choice of completing an unknown challenge or facing the infamous Pie Pod—a chair in which they were struck by up to four pies simultaneously.

Figure It Out

During this show, a panel of four Nickelodeon celebrities attempted to guess a contestant’s secret talent or accomplishment. Highlights included the “charade brigade” and the “secret slime action.” By far the coolest talent ever showcased on this show was that of the kid who could bite a slice of Kraft singles cheese into the shape of any U.S. state or territory.

Double Dare

Combining trivia questions with “physical challenges,” this show let contestants to show off both their brains and brawn. The final obstacle course—which incorporated materials such as slime, whipped cream and chocolate sauce—never failed to entertain. The success of this show led to spin-offs like Family Double

Dare and Double Dare 2000.

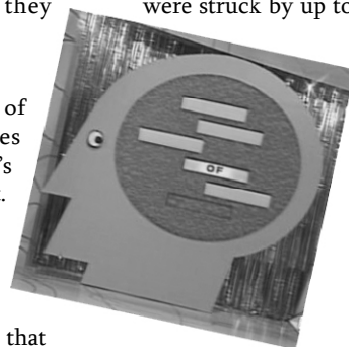
Legends of the Hidden Temple

This show combined physical skill with academic knowledge as six teams of two competed for glory. In the final and most memorable of the rounds, the winning team attempted to retrieve the ancient artifact from within the Mayan temple. There, they faced many difficulties,

including overzealous temple guards and the silver monkey that no one could ever seem to assemble.

Guts

Three competitors were given the opportunity to showcase their athletic prowess in various physical challenges. Host Mike O’Malley and British referee Mo kept the show fast-paced and exciting. In the final round of competition, contestants raced up the Aggro Crag, setting off actuators while dodging deadly glitter and confetti storms along the way.





» GRACE HUESNER, DSJ STAFF REPORTER

In 1998, “Vagina Monologues” opened in New York City to a 2500-seat, sold-out performance. Ten years later, Eve Ensler’s empowering performance is celebrating “V to the Tenth” with a “Monologues” performance in New Orleans on April 12. This performance will commemorate the work and lives of women and girls in the Gulf of Mexico region in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Performers from countries such as

the Philippines, Iraq, Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of Congo, along with powerful women like Oprah Winfrey, Sally Field and Jane Fonda, will participate in order to raise money for V-Day. In this case, the V stands for Valentine, Victory and Vagina.

V-Day is part of a global movement to stop rape, incest, battery, female genital mutilation and other types of violence against women and girls. Each year, in the months of February and March, V-Day and organizations around the world perform Ensler’s groundbreaking show. However, benefit performances of “Vagina Monologues” are only a small piece of V-Day activities, which also include education and benefit events. In 2006, there were over 2000 benefit events, many of which were facilitated by college campuses around the world.

As they have done since 2002, VOX: Voices for Planned Parenthood and UCAB are again presenting the “Vagina Monologues” at the College. Performances will be March 14-16 at 7 p.m. in the UC Commonwealth auditorium. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$7 for non-students and will be available at the UC presale and at the door.

Proceeds will go to AVALON in Williamsburg, a shelter for women and children seeking to escape from domestic violence, as well as the Fistula Foundation, which provides medical treatment to women in Africa that have suffered from obstetric fistulas. This condition is a debilitating pregnancy-related disability prevalent in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. It often results because women give birth without trained professionals. Poverty and the low status of women in these countries

also contribute to the problem.

This year, Morgan Berman (’08) will direct the performance of “Vagina Monologues.” She has coordinated the production, rehearsal and advertising for the shows along with other VOX members and officers.

“This is my fifth feminist theater/activist performance that I have co-directed,” Berman said. “In my opinion these shows have been tremendously successful, not

only because of ticket sales (we sold out last year), but because of the immense interest in the topics by the actors and the audience members.”

She also said, “The show is as a whole a very important part in the fight to end violence against women. We know that the show isn’t perfect, it leaves out people, it says things that many don’t agree with, but the overwhelming message is that women should be heard and their choices respected, whatever those choices may be.”

The show discusses issues like sexual assault, masturbation, lesbian relationships, abortion and feminism—all topics that “relate directly to the health and happiness of students on this campus,” said Berman.

Christy Ottinger (’10), a first-time actor in the performance, said, “Not only does the show address the collective woman’s story, but it addresses socioeconomic class, race, sexuality, national origin. All those stories are really powerful.”

In tune with this year’s international theme of domestic issues and, more specifically, women affected by Hurricane Katrina, the College’s performance will integrate some monologues from affected women. Berman said that this year’s performance will be different, presenting three monologues that have not been performed in years, if ever, and VOX is looking forward to seeing the audience’s reactions. “This year we will be doing three pieces that most people have never seen before, and both actresses are making them as powerful and beautiful as we could have hoped,” she said.

“I know last year it made me feel proud



to be a woman,” Ottinger said. “In the end I know I came out of the show feeling wowed at what women all over the world have gone through concerning sexuality. And it’s not just a show for women. My boyfriend went with me last year and thought it was amazing too. So girls, bring your men with you.”

ADVANCED EXPOSITORY WRITING » MOLLY MCCOIG, DSJ STAFF REPORTER

Advanced Expository Writing. It's a mouthful. And sounds like the tedious kind of class that will bore you to tears. As an English major, I never thought I would enjoy a class where you do nothing but write essays. I thought I did enough of that anyway, but I took a chance.

Not only was this class a pleasant surprise, it was tremendously more rewarding than your average literature class in the English Department, as it fulfills the lower division writing requirement. Plus, it is good for non-English majors who are interested in the craft of writing but couldn't get into a creative writing course (or prefer non-fiction).

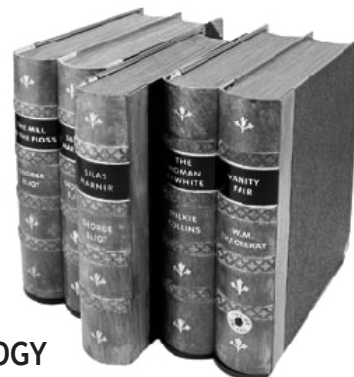
In my class, we only spent one day a week in class (as opposed to the two scheduled days) since the central goal of the class is to "just write," which is done outside of class. So it provides a little extra time to write and really frees up your schedule. What's not to love? Also, the amount of assigned reading is light, manageable and pleasurable. We read short essays by Joan Didion and Virginia Woolf, to name a few.

The best part about this class was the low-stress system of "grading." Each week, students scheduled a one-on-one meeting with the professor to discuss our latest piece of writing, but no grades were assigned to the individual pieces. By the end of the semester we had had a chance to get to know the professor and had crafted a prolific portfolio of short pieces of non-fiction writing as well as one longer piece that was much more enjoyable to write than your average research paper. Grades were assigned at the end of the semester to reflect the student's overall improvement and effort.

I came away with a newfound admiration for great non-fiction writers. But most importantly, the class gives you a skill that you can use in the real world (and apply in other classes too): writing



Classes You Thought You'd Hate... *But Actually Loved*



MODERN DRAMA FROM 1880 TO 1940

» ALEXANDER DANVERS, DSJ STAFF REPORTER

Varun Begley is a minor deity among English and Literary and Cultural Studies students in-the-know. The keeper of Communist literary critique is known for impassioned class discussions, frequent use of the term "reify" and being smarter than anyone you will ever meet. In his class Modern Drama from 1880 to 1940, theater is examined in a cultural context, demonstrating how popular strains of thought at the turn of the 20th century influenced the way we make art and perceive the world.

All the traditional ingredients for a good class are included. Plays are a much quicker read than novels; easy quizzes (if you've read) are announced beforehand and raise your grade; and a fun group project at the end of the semester involves acting out scenes from a play.

None of these factors, however, compares to the enthusiasm the professor brings to the subject matter in making this an enjoyable class. Trite as it sounds, there is nothing more engaging than listening to someone who loves and believes in what he's teaching. It doesn't hurt that he can not only

respond well to comments and questions but turn your half-formed thoughts into lucid and intelligent ideas that flow seamlessly into the discussion. You may not be interested in Communism as a system of government, but after you have taken this class, you will be interested in the way a Communist looks at the world.



INTRODUCTION TO BIOLOGY

» AMY DAPPER, DSJ GUEST REPORTER



I came to William and Mary with the strong intention to be an International Relations major. My first semester, I took Intro to International Relations, German, my freshman seminar and, on a whim, Introduction to Biology taught by Professor Heideman. In high school, my experiences with biology could be at best described as mediocre. But I needed to fulfill a GER, so I decided to give the subject a second chance.

To my surprise, I found the material covered in the class fascinating and, as an added bonus, I used the study skills that Professor Heideman emphasized in that class throughout my college career. I enjoyed the class so much that I continued to register for biology classes and eventually abandoned my initial interests in international relations. This semester I am graduating as a Biology major with plans to attend graduate school in evolutionary biology.

The moral of the story: take chances with your classes because you never know what may pique your interest. If I had not taken a chance with this class my freshman year, I may never have discovered my deep interest in this field.

GENDER ISN'T POWER

ONE WRITER'S ATTEMPT TO MAKE SENSE OF FEMINISM IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

» POOJA GUPTA, DSJ STAFF COLUMNIST

Some call us feminists; some call us strong, ambitious or determined. Some use slightly harsher words, mostly of the crude variety. What do I call us? Women. Plain

with the ideas and thoughts with which they are endowed? Am I implying that women should not stir the pot, to remain silent and not make waves?

In a word—no. No way. As much as

else. It is because of this that to be truly accomplished, a woman must be loyal to herself above others—even if that means bearing the “bitch” label accordingly.

For years, women of all ages were taught

“Don’t base your identity around the fact that you’re a woman. Base it on the fact that you’re an intelligent person. And if need be, yeah, be a little bitchy.”

and simple, bitch or not.

I am not a fan of the term “feminist.” It conjures up an image of a contest in need of a win. Regardless of its original meaning and true form, many now think of a feminist as an abrasive, counter-productive woman. To frame our lives as a perpetual contest, a quest to one-up each other, we are negating the very thing we seek—equality. If we strive to outdo each other at every turn, what are we actually gaining?

The term “feminist” also connotes a consideration that is in no way important to the debate: men. We are not in a contest to defeat the male gender. By focusing on the male gender and the world’s preference of it, we are thereby also defining ourselves by it. It is due to my reluctance to define myself in terms of men that I hesitate to call myself a “feminist.”

But then, what should socially-conscious, intelligent and impassioned women do

the term “feminist” makes me squeamish, the idea of women speaking with a loud voice makes me proud. It is not merely that we have the talent, the capability and the drive to accomplish everything as well as men; it is not that we must outshine other people or compete for the top spot. Rather, it is that we must strive for our own personal bests, irrespective of anyone

that the most attractive girl was a lady-like one. A lady-like woman was one who kept herself quiet, serene and demure. And thus, the most socially acceptable woman is the one who keeps herself in check. But times, they change. In fact, we as smart, well-educated women are going to reach a point when our mouths cannot remain shut. It has now become clear that it is now not only acceptable to speak our minds, it is inevitable and let’s be honest, it’s more fun.



Women often have the fear of society's judgment. It is not sexy to speak your mind, to take a stand or to make waves. I am here to ask: how long will you be able to go without finding your own source of power, respect and voice?

These days, we are expected, rightfully so, to be able to fend for ourselves. We are no longer timid, dainty creatures in need of help, favors or an easy path.

So we must meet this rough terrain with vigor. Armed with power, strength, biting words, sarcasm—whatever tools make us feel on the outside what we feel on the inside. Hiding our true selves, true words, opinions and actions is exhausting. And it

becomes even more exhausting to try to maintain such a farce. Yes, some may call us bitchy, some may doubt our femininity. But you will learn something far greater: our personalities, our selves and our lives are not defined by how quiet we remain. They are, instead, defined by what we value and with which voice we choose to speak. Honesty, boldness and courage will not only cultivate the most long-lasting and truest friendships but will also motivate the most self-respect.

Our power is not derived from our gender. It is not derived from a love/hate relationship with the opposite sex. It is derived from our character and nothing

else. Our beloved Chancellor Sandra Day O'Connor put it best when she said, "The power I exert on the court depends on the power of my arguments, not on my gender." So, following the wise words of former Supreme Court Justice O'Connor, I end this with charge:

Don't base your identity around the fact that you're a woman. Base it on the fact that you're an intelligent person. And if need be, yeah, be a little bitchy.

Pooja Gupta is a staff columnist for The DSJ. Her views do not necessarily represent that of the entire staff.

'OFF THE RECORD,' 'ON BACKGROUND'

» JOHN BRENT HILL, DSJ SPORTS EDITOR

I have not been a journalist for a very long time. I wrote for my high school newspaper. That is true. But never, at any point in my high school writing career, did I ever write a story of any real significance. To be honest with you, my high school newspaper was kind of a joke. We had a feature section on zombies at one point, and how to survive a zombie takeover of our town. Not exactly hard hitting news.

None the less, after my short time writing and editing for The DoG Street Journal, I do in fact feel very much like a journalist. The difference between a high school paper and a college publication, has been, for me at least, stark to say the least. Now, writing in a steadily published magazine and a daily updated newspaper, for a publication that has broken stories of note on campus, and having written stories including an interview with four-time all-pro Darren Sharper, I feel like a real journalist.

Being a "real" journalist, believe it or not, does actually come with some major caveats and rules. Terms like "journalistic integrity" and "ethics" are sometimes thrown around, often without much clout. And frequently on TV, in novels and in movies journalists are portrayed as somewhat seedy individuals who will do anything to get the story.

However, I feel it is important to stop and take the time to actually assess what journalistic integrity is, and how journalists should conduct themselves. And while I know many of you readers, who are currently taking the time on this, are not in fact journalists, I ask you to continue onwards anyway, for the sake of posterity, for the sake of improving your ability to assess the on-campus journalistic

community, and most importantly, for overall self improvement. And so I cease my digression, and delve into the world of journalistic integrity.

One of the most important items of journalistic integrity that I feel needs to be addressed, both for readers and writers, is the significance of the phrase "off the record." While it may seem like a simple notion that any statement that is preceded by this disclaimer is not quotable, that is not always the case. For those of you out there who blog, listen up, as this applies to you as well. When a statement is made "off the record," it cannot be used in a quote, and it should not be the writer's only source of information on a subject. Information that is off the record should be just that: unofficial, treated as if it magically appeared and inspired a hunch in the writer. It does not matter how significant that statement is, nor does it matter how small the piece your writing is: be it a blog or a column in the New York Times, "off the record" is untouchable.

I know this may sound preachy, but it is very important to protect one's sources. If a source gives you information off the record, chances are that there is a good reason for it. Often times, someone will only be willing to give information under this condition because they may find themselves in trouble from their job, from the law, or from some other medium, if it was made known that they had supplied said information.

On a similar note, be tactful when providing information in a story. There is such a thing as too much information and being overly revealing, especially when writing about crimes or other sensitive issues. Additionally, it is very important

to remember that in America everyone is innocent until proven guilty, which journalists often forget in writing about issues. Regardless of how much seemingly condemning evidence exists, every suspect of every crime is an alleged perpetrator until a jury of his or her peers convicts that person. Everyone.

Finally, journalists and readers alike, be fair to everyone. While there is no such thing as an unbiased piece of writing, because we as people are inherently opinionated (especially as young adults), there is such a thing as civil journalism. In recent weeks, regardless of politics, people on campus, journalists included, have lost sight of this in light of on-campus events. There is no reason for writers to act as anything other than considerate mediums for conveying information, because, after all, that is what journalism is for. It's about informing you, the reader, of something that they didn't know or that they didn't know enough about. Journalism, contrary to the beliefs of Anne Coulter, Al Franken, Bill O'Reilly and Bill Maher, is not about indoctrination, it's about information. And that, ladies in gentlemen, is the most important fact of all. So please, to you bloggers, to you writers, hell, even I myself, let's agree to slow down, to step back and say, should I really be writing this? And for you readers out there, next time you read something, stop and ask yourself, was that really necessary? And in the end, if even one person has done that, and has been in some way changed by this rant, it will have not been in vain. As a mentor of mine until recently ended his or her emails, Go Tribe, and Hark Upon the Gale.

John Hill is a staff columnist for The DSJ. His views do not necessarily represent that of the entire staff.

BASEBALL SEASON PREVIEW

WITH NEW TALENT, PRESSURE BUILDS FOR TOURNAMENT QUALIFICATION

» JACK LAMBERT, DSJ STAFF REPORTER

It is a reflection of Tribe Baseball Head Coach Frank Leoni and his staff that, after two years at the College, expectations for the team at the beginning of the season have changed. After missing the CAA Conference Tournament by a game and a half last year, the Tribe expects to make the tournament this season. It would be quite an achievement for the Tribe, considering they haven't made the tournament since 2004. However, led by a lineup with a good balance of veteran leadership, progressing potential and a young pitching staff brimming with talent, they expect nothing less for the 2008 season.

College baseball is a unique version of the game of baseball; it does not possess the striking discrepancy in talent that marks high school baseball but it also is not the fully democratic model found in the pro game. In the pros, the influx of equal talent and the use of the wooden bat make it hard for any one facet of the game to possess an inherent advantage over the other. In college baseball, the metal bat, with its angelic "ping," gives the hitters an advantage over the pitchers resulting in double-digit scoring more regularly than in the pro game.

The idea of the hitter having greater authority in the college game is pleasing one to the Tribe, for they enter 2008 with a talented and deep lineup that should cause an unpleasant visit to Williamsburg for more than a few opposing CAA pitchers. The Tribe is led offensively by catcher Tim Park ('08), a preseason Brooks Wallace Watch List Nominee. Park is the Tribe's top returning hitter; last season he hit .391 with 16 doubles and 47 RBI.

"Tim is a great leader and understands the game very well," Leoni said in the team's preseason media guide. "His production will play a key role in the team's success."

The only other returning player besides

Park to play in all 54 games last season, first baseman Mike Sheridan ('09), is also to be expected to make up a key part of the Tribe's lineup. In 2007, Sheridan was the NCAA D-1 statistical champion for toughest player to strikeout, averaging only one K per every 41.9 at bats. He finished the year with a .340 average, 14 doubles and a slugging percentage of .464.

"Mike is one of the best college players I have coached," Leoni said in the preseason media guide. "He will bat in the middle of the lineup, and his production will be vital to our success."

Left fielder Greg Maliniak ('08) is another returning player who returns with significant experience from last season. Starting 52 out of the 54 total games last season, Maliniak batted .318 with 46 RBI. "Greg was one of our best run producers last season, and I think he will be again this year," said Leoni. "He has a great deal of experience, and he will be a critical

component of our lineup."

What the rest of the Tribe's lineup lacks in starting experience, they certainly make up for in talent. Center fielder Ben Guez ('09) started in the Cape Cod League's All-Star game this past summer, a game that highlights the talent of one of the most prestigious summer leagues in all of college baseball. Guez's fellow outfielder, right fielder Rob Nickle ('09), started only 34 games last season for the Tribe. However, he finished tied for the team lead with 10 homeruns, averaging one homerun every 12.8 at bats.

One of the most important pieces to this year's team will be new third baseman Tyler Stampone ('09). Stampone is a transfer from the College of Holy Cross, and he replaces third team All-American Greg Sexton. While he might not replace Sexton offensively (and few could), Stampone is an athletic player who played middle infield at Holy Cross. "He plays great defense, and



The Tribe finished last season with a 29-25 record and missed the CAA Tournament by 1.5 games. Photo courtesy of Tribe Athletics.

he will be very productive at the plate as he continues to work on being more of a power hitter," said Leoni.

It will be important for the Tribe to supply better run support this season as they enter the 2008 campaign with a young pitching staff. "We know we're going to be able to hit," said starting pitcher Pete Vernon ('08). "We feel pressure to match what they're doing."

The pressure that will fall on the Tribe's

.92 innings pitched. Billbrough was the Miami Herald high school pitcher of the year last season, going 7-3 with a 0.39 ERA for Miami Palmetto High School.

The mid-week starting rotation will be made up of some combination of right hander Tim Norton ('11), right hander Cody Winslow ('10), left hander Tyler Truxell ('10) and Jeremy Neustifter ('09). Aside from Truxell, the rotation has little game experience with Winslow leading the

will be how their midweek rotation and bullpen fare against a challenging non-conference schedule. The Tribe plays both the University of Virginia and Virginia Tech in one-game series on the road this season and faces Maryland in a one-game home series at Plumeri Park. The Tribe will also face two-time national runner up in the College World Series, the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, for a one-game series in Cary, North Carolina, this

"Our goal has to be to get into the tournament first," said Vernon. "We've always been a game, game and a half out... Last year we took two out of three from ODU, so we know we can do it."

young pitching staff will be a different than what they've faced over the previous two seasons. In years past, the pitching staff has been over matched, and although they competed valiantly, they lacked the talent to compete with other team's rotations. This year's pitching staff is the most talented staff that coach Leoni- has had at the College, and he has put pressure on them to overcome their youthful inexperience in order to give the Tribe a chance to compete seriously in the conference.

In college baseball, a pitching staff is comprised of weekend starters and mid-week starters. The weekend starters make up the front end of the starting rotation and usually start the conference games that fall on weekends. Mid-week starters form the backend of the rotation, and although they do not start as many conference games, they are crucial in accumulating wins during the season.

This year's weekend rotation is anchored by left hander Vernon. After setting school records for most appearances the previous two seasons, Vernon will be asked to take the ball every Friday for the Tribe in what will usually be the first game of a three-day conference series.

"I'm excited about it," Vernon said. "I've always wanted to be the guy who starts the weekend games."

Last season, Vernon had a record of 8-5 and a 5.42 ERA. "Every time Pete takes the mound, he competes and gives us a chance to win," said Leoni. "Pete will be an anchor for us on Fridays."

Comprising the rest of the weekend staff will be right hander Kevin Landry ('10) and right hander Logan Billbrough ('11). Landry went 4-5 last season with an ERA of 6.05. He returns with the highest strikeout per inning ratio in the starting rotation, averaging a strikeout for every

rotation with 30 innings pitched last season.

When asked about the issue of inexperience, Landry said, "We struggled last year, but we have a lot of good young guys. We have a few sophomores, like myself, who might have been thrown into the mix maybe too early last year. But now we know what it's going to be like going into conference weekend games."

The bullpen will have two senior leaders in right hander Pat Kantakevich and left hander Sean Grieve. Kantakevich and Grieve both started last season, and Grieve finished tenth in the CAA with 60 strikeouts. "Both Sean and Pat love having the ball in their hands when the game is on the line," said Leoni. "They are very talented, and when they are on they have the ability to take over games and dominate."

A key factor for the Tribe this season

season.

"I would love to beat one of those teams," said Landry. "Everyone expects us to lose, so we have nothing to lose, even if we make it a close game. That's not good enough for us though."

In addition to a challenging non-conference schedule, the Tribe plays a full conference schedule, going up against traditionally strong teams such as Old Dominion University, Virginia Commonwealth University, University of North Carolina-Wilmington and the University of Delaware.

"Our goal has to be to get into the tournament first," said Vernon. "We've always been a game, game and a half out... Last year we took two out of three from ODU, so we know we can do it." For the Tribe this season, playing well is no longer an option, it is an expectation.

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WHO FRAMED ROGER CLEMENS?



*His former personal trainer
has accused him of juicing, but
Clemens says, "it 'aint so."*

» BEN HENKEL, DSJ STAFF REPORTER

In the steroid controversy plaguing Major League Baseball, those that are suspected of using performance enhancing drugs (PED) have almost exclusively been considered sluggers, with the likes of Mark McGwire, Sammy Sosa, Barry Bonds, Rafael Palmeiro and Jose Canseco. Little attention has been paid to the pitchers in the league... until now.

In 2005, to determine the depth of PED usage in baseball in the past decade or so, MLB Commissioner Bud Selig had former Senator George Mitchell investigate. After 20 months, the results were released in December 2007. The Mitchell Report listed 89 players in all, with the biggest stars being seven-time Cy Young winner Roger Clemens and New York Yankees pitcher Andy Pettitte. Both were mentioned in the report based on evidence given by Clemens' personal trainer Brain McNamee, who claims to have injected Clemens with steroids and human growth hormones

(HGH) from 1998 to 2001. McNamee also claims to have injected Pettitte with HGH in 2002 to help the Yankees pitcher heal from an elbow injury.

Pettitte has come forward and stated that McNamee's allegations were true and that he had only used HGH while recover-

"In order to be voted into the Hall of Fame, one must receive 75 percent of votes from baseball writers, yet only around 25 percent believe that McGwire deserves it. Will Clemens face the same fate?"

ing from an injury in an attempt to heal and speed his return to the Yankees. Clemens, however, has vehemently denied any and all accusations directed towards him regarding his use of performance enhancing drugs, claiming that the injections were actually lidocaine, a joint relief like a

cortisone shot, and Vitamin B-12. However, McNamee would not back down from his accusations. The situation became very contentious after this, escalating after Clemens released a taped phone conversation with McNamee, in which McNamee asked Clemens, "What do you want me to do?!" multiple times. Clemens has used this as evidence to support his claims.

Clemens filed a defamation suit against McNamee on Jan. 7, for what he considered lies that were tarnishing his character. McNamee then threatened to file a countersuit, and, in an even stranger turn of events, he additionally claimed to have provided Clemens' wife Debbie with HGH to get in shape to pose for Sports Illustrated's Swimsuit Issue in 2002. Debbie Clemens has admitted to this usage of HGH.

The House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Government decided to investigate the issue. McNamee, Clemens, Pettitte, former Yankee Chuck Knoblauch and former New York Mets trainer

Kirk Radomski were all called forth to testify. Radomski had pled guilty to illegal steroid distribution to many MLB players and was sentenced to five years probation from a lenient judge. In the end, only Clemens and McNamee had to testify before Congress after Pettitte, Radomski and Knoblauch gave affidavits to the committee.

Needless to say, Clemens and McNamee both stuck to their stories. McNamee insists that he injected Clemens with HGH and steroids. Clemens stated he has never

Clemens about his potential attendance at a luncheon at Jose Canseco's house in 1998. Clemens violated protocol by speaking with the nanny personally before the committee had a chance to interview the potential witness.

Another thing going against Clemens is a simple question: Why would each lie to Congress? McNamee has nothing to gain and everything to lose, as he put it, by lying to Congress about this issue. Clemens stands to gain protection of his Hall of

and he is convicted of perjury charges.

The court of public opinion may have already branded Clemens as a steroid user and liar. This would greatly damage Clemens' shot at Cooperstown. His stats definitely would ensure enshrinement on his first year of eligibility but not if some think his stats are tainted. This is evident by Mark McGwire's denial to the Hall even though it has never been conclusively proven that he used illegal performance enhancing drugs.

"Clemens and McNamee both stuck to their stories. McNamee insists that he injected Clemens with HGH and steroids. Clemens stated he has never used steroids. Both sides used interesting ways to back up their claims..."

used steroids. Both sides used interesting ways to back up their claims. McNamee presented the Committee with old syringes he claims will have traces of both HGH and Clemens blood, days before testifying.

Clemens' lawyers had statistical analysis of his late career stats, although some say that indicates PED use. Former Boston General Manager Dan Duquette, for example, said Clemens was in the "twilight of his career" in 1996 as a reason the Red Sox did not resign him. Clemens had one of his best seasons after signing with the Toronto Blue Jays in 1997, winning the Cy Young Award. Suspicious to some, this season coincided with Brian McNamee becoming his personal training coach. The lawyers stated the statistical analysis illustrated that his resurgence with the Blue Jays and Yankees was not an anomaly.

With both McNamee and Clemens maintaining their stories' veracity, it means one person has committed perjury in front of Congress. The situation does not appear good for Roger Clemens. The most damaging evidence presented to Clemens' story was submitted in Pettitte's affidavit to the committee, which corroborated with McNamee on his own usage of HGH and established a chronology of Clemens' usage of HGH. Pettitte stated he had a conversation in 1999 or 2000 with Clemens in which the latter admitted to using HGH. Clemens tried to brush this off by stating that Pettitte misunderstood the conversation and it was about his wife's HGH use, not his. Note, however, Debbie Clemens' admitted HGH use was in 2002, two years after the conversation.

Clemens could also be accused of tampering with a witness. The Committee wanted to interview a former nanny of

Fame career. Also, why would McNamee tell investigators the truth about injecting Andy Pettitte and Debbie Clemens with HGH but lie about Roger Clemens?

Committee Chairman Congressman Henry Waxman (D-CA) has stated he believes the hearings were not worth it, and he didn't want the hearing to occur. However, Clemens and his lawyers asked for it to publicly deny the rumors. Interestingly enough, when he talked with the Committee a week before the hearing, Clemens looked like a lobbyist. He schmoozed with members of the Committee, which seems divided on party lines about this issue. Some Republican members questioned McNamee's credibility, with Christopher Shays (R-CT) repeatedly calling McNamee a drug dealer. Some Democrats simply stated that they did not find Clemens' story to be believable.

Many have speculated the reason of the partisan divide on an issue that seems it would be non-political. Richard Emery, one of McNamee's lawyers, has stated that he believes the Republicans on the committee were vicious to McNamee because of Clemens' support of the Bush Administration. Bush and Clemens are friends, both being from Texas and involved in baseball at one point. Emery has even speculated that the Bush administration could pardon Clemens if

In order to be voted into the Hall of Fame, one must receive 75 percent of votes from baseball writers, yet only around 25 percent believe that McGwire deserves it. Will Clemens face the same fate? Clemens' career is definitely over after teasing retirements for four years. He is 45 and with possible perjury and tampering with a witness charges in his future (if the Justice Department determines who was lying). Clemens may join Barry Bonds as people considered to be the best in baseball but then were brought down by perjury regarding steroids.

It would be a shame if one of the best pitchers the game has seen (Clemens) and the best power hitters (Bonds) join Pete Rose (the all-time hits leader) in being banned from the Hall of Fame. Bonds and Clemens may both be convicted of perjury regarding their usage of performance enhancing drugs, and Rose is already banned for gambling on baseball as the Cincinnati Reds manager.



Clemens testified before the House Oversight Committee in mid February. Photo courtesy of the Associated Press.

NICHOL'S FOURTH QUARTER

» JOHN BRENT HILL, DSJ SPORTS EDITOR

On the football field, a quarterback is a leader. Often called a “field general,” there is no position in any sport with which leadership is so inherently tied.

In the past months, the sports community has seen leaders both emerge and crumble on the gridiron. Sporting fans worldwide witnessed Eli Manning’s coming of age, as he almost single-handedly led the Giants to one of the greatest upsets in Super Bowl history. Additionally, Patriots fans saw their iconic hero Tom Brady and his team’s dynasty fall to pieces, and inevitably, victim to the scrutiny of the media. It is a hard-knock life being a quarterback; teams live and die by your arm, which leaves the quarterback alone with the weight of the team on his shoulders.

In recent weeks, we here on campus have also seen a very similar rise and fall of a quarterback. The quarterback I am speaking of, however, has never stepped on the field for the Tribe, has never worn a helmet sporting our green and gold and has never thrown a pass at the College. However, by the standards of many, this quarterback may go down in history as the best the Tribe has ever had. Metaphorically speaking, there has been no one person on campus more deserving of the title of quarterback than our former President Gene Nichol.

In college at Oklahoma State, Nichol was the varsity backup QB for the Cowboys, competing in both his junior and senior years. He also graduated with honors and a degree in philosophy. Now, some 30 years later, this footballer has once again found himself under pressure, and recently, he was literally “sacked.” On the football field, quarterbacks constantly find themselves under both duress from the defense and scrutiny from the press. If one could call the conservative presence on campus, in the BOV and in the Virginia House of Delegates the defense, then this description certainly seems to fit that of President Nichol.

Faced with issue after issue, despite being constantly under pressure from controversies with which he was forced to deal, President Nichol was more than re-

silient. He withstood blow after blow that was levied upon him by his critics, escaping “tackles” in an almost Eli Manning-esque sense (remember Manning’s escape in the fourth quarter and eventual completion 30 yards downfield to David Tyree?). As Nichol slipped through the hands of his angry conservative opposition, he continuously delivered touchdown after touchdown to the student body. Be it by whooping up and down the sideline at every Tribe basketball and football contest, notably rallying the sometimes lackluster fans, or by delivering a rendition of How the Grinch Stole Christ-

“He wasn’t just our quarterback, he was one of us. He kept our collective Tribe Pride high, even in the midst of struggling seasons and strenuous semesters.”

mas that neither Dr. Seuss nor Boris Karloff (the narrator of the classic cartoon version) could have expected, Nichol could not have been in better favor with his teammates: the students and faculty here on campus.

But it wasn’t just the big things that President Nichol did that made him so beloved. In fact, for many it was the small things that inspired his “teammates” most. In the students’ rally held in the Sunken Gardens after he announced his resignation, stories were told of President Nichol, quite literally, “sweating for you,” as he helped to move in new freshman or of showing up to infrequently attended sports like tennis to cheer on his students. President Nichol had more than just an “on-field” presence; he was also the player who, while on the sidelines, would rally the troops and gather enthusiasm from those in the stands.

What exactly does that mean? It means that, for example, President Nichol would take the time out of his schedule to spend a night dining with my freshman seminar class two years ago, recalling to a group of wide-eyed students his experiences in politics and law. He wasn’t just our quarterback, he was one of us. He kept our collective Tribe Pride high, even in the midst of struggling seasons and strenuous semes-

ters.

I am well aware of the criticisms of President Nichol—I know that we lost donors over the Wren Cross scandal, I know the Sex Workers’ Art Show did in fact land the College on the O’Reilly Factor—I would counter anyone presenting these arguments as valid reasons for his non-renewal by asking how their college experience has been since Nichol has been president. The two years that I have spent here have been better due to the presence of President Nichol.

Over the past two years, the former Oklahoma State quarterback has, in fact, become our quarterback. While his tenure may have ended far too quickly, I would advise you to watch the movie “The Replacements.” Before you laugh at this seemingly bizarre statement, consider this. The Replacements is, in my opinion, one of the best football movies out there. And while it may be cliché, I think of the end of the movie and Keanu Reeves’ character Shane Falco and I see President Nichol. For like Nichol, Falco, the team’s gutsy quarterback, loses his job (as do all of the players on the team of replacement players), but he wins the respect of his teammates, coaches and fans. As the movie fades out, Gene Hackman says, in a way that only he can, “When the Washington Sentinels left the stadium that day, there was no ticker-tape parade, no endorsement deals for sneakers or soda pop or breakfast cereal. Just a locker to be cleaned out and a ride home to catch. But what they didn’t know was that their lives had been changed forever because they had been part of something great. And greatness, no matter how brief, stays with a man. Every athlete dreams of a second chance; these men lived it.”

And to me, that sounds a lot like what we gave Gene Nichol here at the College, because while some may say that his tenure as a president was a failure, I would say that his second chance at being a quarterback was a success. And, regardless of whom they name to be the next president or who starts as the signal-caller for Tribe football next year, Gene Nichol will always be my president, and he will always be my quarterback.

LINKING CHANGE AND TRADITION

There are few institutions that have such a long history of tradition as The College. And there are few that, in turn, hold up tradition as such a pinnacle part of the four years a student spends here. At William and Mary, it takes nothing more than walking through Old Campus to know and feel that you are a part of something bigger than yourself, walking on bricks trod by thousands who have gone before you.

With such rich tradition, it can be easy to look at a time of tremendous change as disjointing, as antithetical even, to that for which The College stands. The last few months have certainly been difficult for The College, in a period rife with controversy and with thousands from outside our community weighing in their opinions. It has been a tumultuous couple of semesters, ending in a very visible and very sudden transition.

But in looking back, change has always

brought something to The College that has not only added to its rich and incredible history but has, somehow, in some way, propelled The College forward. After all, Phi Beta Kappa did begin as a drinking fraternity for men, and few could refute that its transformation has been for the better. There have been many times in our long history in which The College has faced momentous changes as well: becoming co-ed, racial integration and adding everything from new buildings to new programs of study. The mark left by President Nichol, as well as that which will be made by our interim President Taylor Reveley, will take its place in this tremendous line of ever-evolving change, bolstered by years of tradition.

But one thing will not change. Whether

you agree or disagree with the decision of the BOV, Rector Powell spoke one sentence during the BOV's visit last month that cannot be denied: "The whole world

is watching to see how the College community comes together after this decision ... They want to see if we just say that we are a Tribe or whether we mean it, whether we mean that we are a community."

Just as others have looked on over the past few months, for over 300 years, The College has been just what Rector Powell described: a place that our nation has looked to for its collective embrace of the highest standards.

Therefore, we can do nothing more than take up this charge and continue to prove we are a campus built on a rich desire for higher learning, that can be challenged and shaken, but still will stand together, and stronger for it.



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